

Message Text

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ORIGIN DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02
DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /159 R

DRAFTED BY S/AR:AGJAMES/MW
APPROVED BY S/AR:ELRICHARDSON
/AR: ALDRICH
D/LOS:ADBERLIND
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061452

FOR AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE

REF: STATE 55419

1. I SAW ZULETA IN NEW YORK ON MARCH 8 ON MY WAY BACK TO
WASHINGTON FROM CONSULTATIONS IN EUROPE.

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2. ZULETA SAID HE, AMERASINGHE, FERNANDO AND KANAKARATNE
HAD DINED TOGETHER MARCH 7. SINCE THE OCCASION DID NOT
PERMIT PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH FERNANDO, ZULETA HAD NOT
HAD A CHANCE TO URGE FERNANDO TO LET COLOMBO KNOW HE
WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO AMERASINGHE SERVING ON HIS LOS DELE-
GATION. FERNANDO HAD HOWEVER VOLUNTEERED TO ZULETA THAT
PINTO AND A FEW OFFICIALS FROM COLOMBO WOULD COMPRISE

THE DELEGATION. AMERASINGHE'S NAME WAS NOT MENTIONED. BOTH ZULETA AND I FEEL IT HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT THERE WILL BE ANY CHANGE IN THE DECISION OF THE GSL ON THIS ISSUE.

3. RE YOUR 1003, I SEE NO OBJECTION TO THE NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER IN SINGAPORE VISITING COLOMBO TO FOLLOW UP ON TALBOYS' CONVERSATION WITH HAMEED. IT COULD OF COURSE DO SOME GOOD ALTHOUGH WE HERE REMAIN VERY SKEPTICAL THAT IT IS LIKELY TO CHANGE THE SITUATION. FOR WELLINGTON:

IF YOU PERCEIVE NO OBJECTION WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE APPROPRIATE NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES AND ADVISE. WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED BY THE CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE THAT THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN COLOMBO HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE LOW KEY FOLLOW-UP TO HAMEED ON TALBOYS' APPROACH.

4. ZULETA CONFIRMED OUR VIEW THAT FERNANDO IS NOT LIKELY TO SEND ANY SIGNAL TO COLOMBO ON AMERASINGHE REMAINING ON THE DELEGATION. HE ALSO STATED THAT WALDHEIM WILL NOT INTERVENE.

5. IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE TO KNOW THE FINAL DECISION OF THE GSL ON THE AMERASINGHE ISSUE SO THAT THE ASIAN GROUP CAN IF REQUIRED GET DOWN TO CHOOSING A SUCCESSOR FROM THEIR RANKS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW IF YOU
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INTEND TO PURSUE THE QUESTION WITH THE PRESIDENT OR WHETHER WE CAN TAKE HARRY JAYEWARDENE'S COMMENTS TO YOU (COLOMBO 998) AS THE FINAL WORD.

6. ZULETA IMPLIED TO ME THAT THE LATIN GROUP MIGHT RELENT ON THEIR OPPOSITION TO AMERASINGHE IF THEY GOT SATISFACTION ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE 7TH SESSION, I.E. THEY WERE ASSURED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE FINAL CHANGES IN THE ICNT WITHOUT CONSULTING AND CARRYING ALONG THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND REFERRING ANY CHANGES HE MAKES TO THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND FINALLY THE PLENARY. THAT THE LATINS WILL DROP THEIR OPPOSITION IS PROBLEMATIC IN MY VIEW EVEN IF SATISFIED ON PROCEDURES. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT FOR THE ASIANS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF A SUCCESSOR TO AMERASINGHE WITHOUT DELAY. THIS I BELIEVE THEY ARE LIKELY TO DO SOON.

VANCE

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